

Amendment to the Constitution of the United States to ban the desecration of the Flag. I feel this amendment runs contra to the spirit of America's Founding Fathers. When the British sought to oppress the colonies, they attacked the ability to speak freely, they sought to snuff out any different opinions, snuff out that which makes a democracy strong. From this blatant oppression came the impetus for the first Amendment, our Founding Fathers felt so strongly that we should be able to speak our mind regarding political process they embedded the right in our Constitution's Bill of Rights. Now, after 200 years, they seek to change this cherished principle.

I love my flag, but I love it for what it stands for and the principles it represents. People have died for the principles the flag represents, not for the cloth which it is made. Burn the symbol of our country, tear it up, and we only become stronger, more dedicated to the principles the flag represents. An attack against our flag is really an affirmation of our Nation and all that we as a people stand for.

Our courts told us burning the flag is a protected form of free speech and we must respect this. The American Flag is an exceptional symbol of an extraordinary nation that has protected personal liberty for more than 200 years. We must recognize that the flag is an icon, only an icon, and our beliefs and principles are the rock on that we stand.

BRENDA McDONNELL AND HELEN MOONEY RECOGNIZED AS TWO EXTRAORDINARY TEACHERS

### HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 25, 1999*

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two extraordinary teachers from the eight Congressional District of Massachusetts, Brenda McDonnell and Helen Mooney. Both are educators at East Somerville Community School and have been selected to receive the Time Warner Cable's 1998-1999 National Teacher Award. These exceptional women are two of only fifteen teachers selected out of hundreds of entries from across the country.

Ms. McDonnell and Ms. Mooney together organized a project for their seventh grade students called the "Cable Enhanced Classroom." through this project, students were encouraged to explore an area of their interest that was related to the themes of National History Day: Science, Technology and Inventions. Over a ten-week period, forty-seven seventh-grade students prepared media presentations, plays, display boards, and research papers by referencing programs from sources such as A&E, the Discovery Channel, the History Channel, the Learning Channel, and the Internet.

Time Warner Cable has recognized Ms. McDonnell's and Ms. Mooney's project as an example of exemplary teaching. Both teachers will share the \$1,000.00 grant presented to them at an awards dinner honoring their initiative and achievement. These teachers have been a positive influence and an inspiration to other educators and students nationwide. Their achievement illustrates the significant impact teachers make when challenging their students with thought provoking assignments.

Education is of great importance to me. In particular, I believe it is vital to attract and encourage enthusiastic teachers. Honoring dedicated instructors such as Mr. McDonnell and Ms. Mooney helps to reveal our immense appreciation and encourages the same innovation in future projects.

IN HONOR OF LILLIAN  
WASHINGTON

### HON. LYNN N. RIVERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 25, 1999*

Ms. RIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Lillian Washington, who will be celebrating her 100th birthday on July 1, 1999.

Mrs. Washington was born in Montecello, Georgia, in 1899. She is the eleventh child of Charlie and Amanda Tuggle. During her childhood, she was most happy running and playing outside in the natural settings around her home. She attended Sardis Grade School, and graduated from Montecello High School.

Since moving to the Detroit area over 75 years ago, Mrs. Washington has been a generous and active member of both her church and in her community. After marrying Charles Smith in 1922, she joined the Russel Street Baptist Church. Following the passing of Mr. Smith, she later remarried and joined Smith Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church. She served faithfully on the church's Stewardess Board for many years, and her loving concern for others, especially children, has touched many hearts. Although she did not have biological children, she has been a "mother" to countless "daughters."

Mrs. Washington lives alone in her apartment surrounded by precious mementos, a testament to her strong will and the fact that she is still "going strong." Her persevering spirit may best be symbolized by her favorite song, "Through it All." She is certainly a treasure for our community, and I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in wishing her a wonderful birthday and many more years of health and happiness.

CONGRATULATING MARTHA  
MCKINLEY, MOTHER OF THE YEAR

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 25, 1999*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Martha McKinley for being honored as Mother of the Year by the Fresno County Women in Chambers of Commerce. Martha is an outstanding and deserving mother in Fresno County.

Martha McKinley was nominated by her daughter, Monna Romagnoli, three grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. Martha married Pete McKinley on February 6, 1937 and they shared their lives together for 40 years. In 1978 Pete passed away.

Martha has worked most of her adult life in several different fields to support her parents and family. She was a nursery school teacher; office manager at Maier Island Naval Ship-

yard; department head of CA Industrial Division of Welfare. Martha was also active in community and civic organizations and volunteered on several political campaigns. She was a member of the Women's Zonta Club and the Coachella Valley Women's Club. In 1950, Martha McKinley was the first President of Fresno County Women in Chambers of Commerce. She remains an active member today as she enjoys her retirement.

Martha is an exemplary mother who possesses the qualities of compassion, warmth, generosity, humor, and humility. Martha has also instilled these values in her entire family. Furthermore, her great spirit, integrity, loyalty, wit, and generosity are the reasons for her long-lasting friendships.

Martha is quick to share herself with others in need, often times bringing them into her life and home. Martha became a second mother to her neighbor Sally, when she lost her mother. Martha made sure to include Sally in everything her family did. She guided and comforted Sally, treating her like a daughter.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleges to join me in congratulating Martha McKinley for being awarded Mother of the Year. Her desire to put family first, her love of God, life, and her neighbor make her truly deserving of this recognition.

U.S. MILITARY AIRCRAFT DENIED  
REQUEST AT HONG KONG'S CHEK  
LAP KOK AIRPORT

### HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 25, 1999*

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, the People's Republic of China has denied a request for a United States military aircraft at Hong Kong's Chek Lap Kok airport and indicated it was "denied in view of current circumstances." Undoubtedly this is a Chinese reaction to our bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade. However, as the following editorial from Hong Kong's South China Morning Post indicates, that action is not only counterproductive for Sino-American relations, it raises further questions in America and the world regarding the autonomy of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) within the Chinese governmental system. It is true that the People's Republic of China does maintain full responsibility for foreign policy and national security for the Hong Kong SAR, but this decision seems an unnecessary further aggravation in the relations between China and the United States of America. I urge my colleagues to read the following editorial in the June 24, 1999, editorial of the South China Morning Post.

#### EDITORIAL

More than a month after the bombing of the embassy in Belgrade, Beijing's fury is apparently still undiminished. Profound and repeated apologies by the US, including the telephone call from President Bill Clinton to President Jiang Zemin, have failed to get diplomatic communications back on track.

The mainland Government's response was understandable in the emotion of the moment; after all, staff members tragically lost their lives. But by refusing to help defuse the ongoing row, Beijing now risks deepening the harm to Sino-US relations.